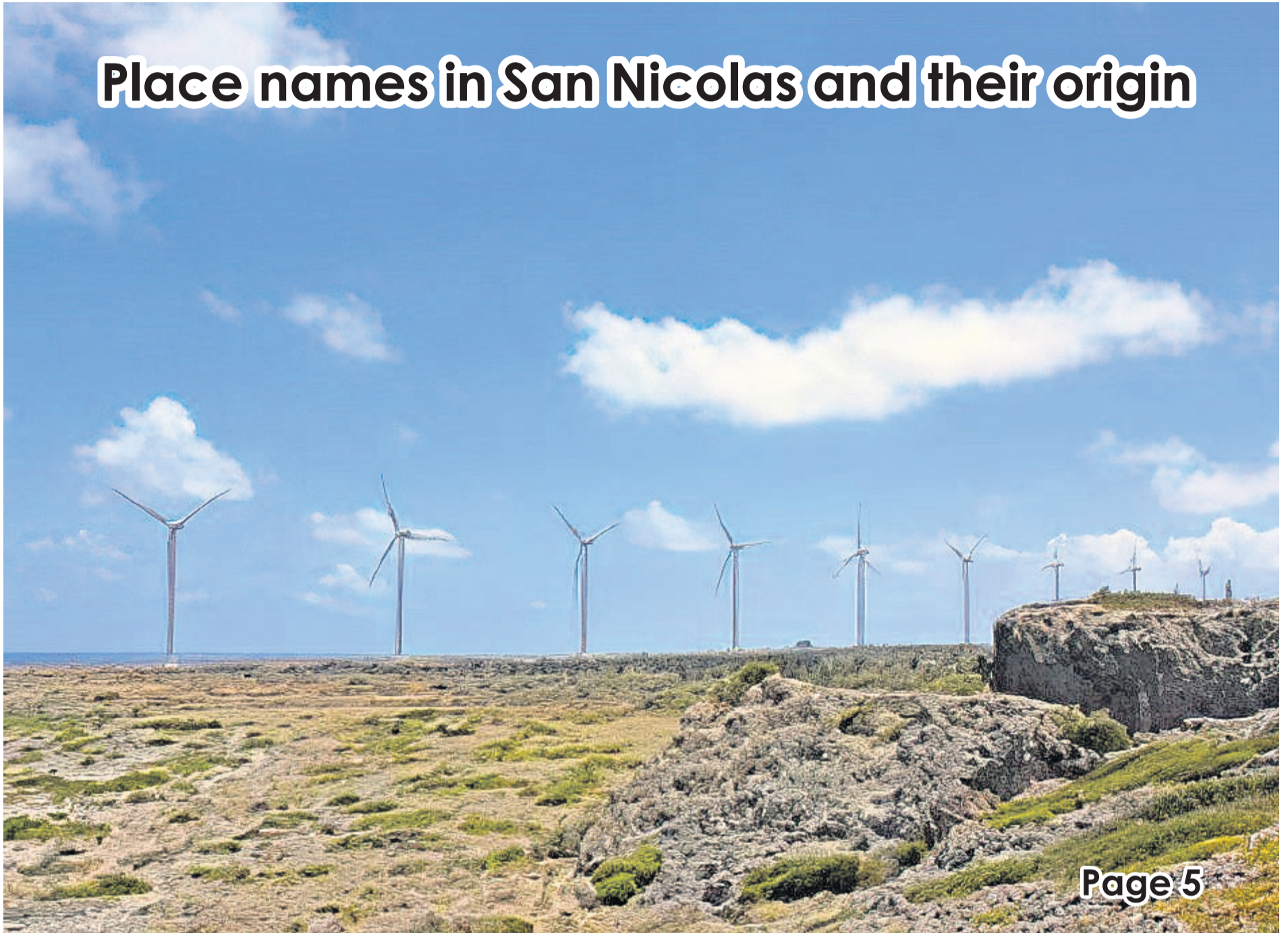




Place names in San Nicolas and their origin



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Few U.S. adults confident Justice Department and FBI will act fairly under Trump, AP-NORC poll finds

By **AMELIA THOMSON-DE-VEAUX**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, Pam Bondi, prepares for questioning from senators on Wednesday, only about 2 in 10 U.S. adults are "extremely" or "very" confident that the Department of Justice will act in a fair and nonpartisan manner during his second term, a poll finds.

Their faith in the neutrality of the FBI is similarly low, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which was conducted before the beginning of the confirmation hearings for Trump's Cabinet. Even some Republicans express uncertainty in the Justice Department and the FBI, suggesting that even once they take office, Trump and his allies may find it challenging to restore trust in the law enforcement agencies they've heavily criticized. Adding to the doubts about the incoming Trump administration, the poll also finds that Americans' views of several of his highest-profile



The FBI headquarters building is seen in Washington, Dec. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

nominees are more negative than positive, although many don't have an opinion about the people he's selected for his Cabinet. However, one of Trump's more controversial nominees, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., is still broadly popular with Republicans, according to the poll. Kennedy, the scion of a Democratic dynasty and a prominent vaccine skeptic, has been tapped

as top health official. His confirmation hearings have not been scheduled. Doubts about law enforcement agencies' fairness Trump has selected loyalists to lead the Department of Justice and the FBI after threatening to retaliate against perceived adversaries. Relatively few Americans are confident that these agencies will act in a fair and impartial manner

over the next four years, according to the poll. About half of Americans are "not very" or "not at all" confident that the Justice Department and the FBI will act in a fair and nonpartisan manner during Trump's second term, while about one-third are "somewhat" confident and about 2 in 10 are "extremely" or "very" confident. Even as a new GOP ad-

ministration prepares to take control, Republicans are split on whether the DOJ and the FBI will remain neutral. Only about one-quarter of Republicans are at least "very" confident that the agencies will behave in a nonpartisan way, while about 4 in 10 are "somewhat" confident and roughly one-third are "not very" or "not at all" confident. Their uncertainty may reflect the fact that the nation's law enforcement agencies have been heavily criticized over the last few years by Trump and his allies, including by Bondi, the former Florida attorney general, and Kash Patel, his choice to lead the FBI. In one radio appearance, Bondi described special counsel Jack Smith, who who charged Trump in two federal cases, and other prosecutors who have charged Trump as "horrible" people she said were trying to make names for themselves by "going after Donald Trump and weaponizing our legal system." Patel, meanwhile, has called for dramatic changes to the FBI, including reducing its footprint and authority. □

U.S. population projections shrink from last year because of declining birth rates, less immigration

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

The Congressional Budget Office has shrunk its projections for the U.S. population in 30 years to 372 million residents, a 2.8% drop from last year, citing declining birth rates and less expected immigration.

The budget office last year projected 383 million people living in the United States in 30 years but reduced that figure by 11 million residents in projections released this week. The U.S. had an estimated 341 million residents on New Year's Day and is expected to grow to 350 million people by year's end.

Population growth will slow over the next three de-

acades. In the next 10 years, the yearly growth rate in the United States will be on average, 0.4% but then it slows down on average to 0.1% between 2036 and

2055, the budget office said.

The overall yearly growth rate over the next three decades, 0.2%, is projected to be less than a quarter

of what it was from 1975 to 2024. Without immigration, the U.S. population will shrink starting in 2033 in part "because fertility rates are projected to remain too low for a generation to replace itself," the Congressional Budget Office said. The reduced projections from last year were the results of a decline in projected fertility rates over 30 years from 1.70 births per woman to 1.60 births per woman and less immigration because of an executive order last June that temporarily suspends asylum processing at the border when U.S. officials deem they are overwhelmed, the budget office said. Replacement

happens at a rate of 2.1 births per woman.

The Congressional Budget Office releases population projections each year to guide decisions on the federal budgets and the economy as well as estimating Social Security payroll taxes and benefits.

The Congressional Budget Office's projections are higher than those made by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau counts the resident population, while the CBO projects includes the resident population as well as U.S. citizens and others living abroad who are eligible for those benefits. The CBO's projections also predict higher immigration. □



People stand in Times Square in New York, Aug. 9, 2024.

Associated Press

Israel supplied Iran with centrifuge platforms containing explosives, top official acknowledges

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — Israel supplied Iran with centrifuge platforms containing explosives for its nuclear enrichment program, a top Iranian official has acknowledged for the first time, underscoring the sophistication of sabotage programs targeting the Islamic Republic.

The comments by Mohammad Javad Zarif, a former foreign minister who serves as vice president for strategic affairs for reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian, appear aimed at explaining to the country's disaffected public the challenges Iran's government faces under crushing Western sanctions over the program. The comments also acknowledged details previously reported in Israel about a 2021 attack on Iran's underground Natanz nuclear enrichment facility.

The revelation, released this week, shows the danger still facing Iran after Israel struck the country twice during the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and threatens to directly target its nuclear



This photo released Nov. 5, 2019, by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, shows centrifuge machines in the Natanz uranium enrichment facility in central Iran.

Associated Press

sites as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to re-enter the White House next week.

Israel placed explosives in centrifuge platforms, Zarif says

Zarif made the remarks in an interview with a program affiliated with the Institute for the Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Works, a publicly funded organization in Iran. Politicians from Iran's reformist camp,

which seeks to change Iran's Shiite theocracy from within, often seek different media outlets to reach the public as Iranian state television is controlled by hard-liners.

Zarif, who helped Iran reach its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, discussed a sabotage attack launched by Israel's Mossad intelligence agency targeting pagers and radios used by the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah in September. The

two waves of attacks killed 42 people and wounded thousands more, setting the stage for Israel's invasion of Lebanon in October.

"This is part of the damage of sanctions, that you are forced to receive (purchases) through multiple dealers instead of buying from a factory directly," Zarif said. "If the Zionist regime can infiltrate one of the dealers, then it can do anything and install anything."

He added: "For instance, our friends at the Atomic Energy Organization (of Iran) had purchased a platform for centrifuges in which (the Israelis) had installed explosive material."

Zarif did not elaborate, and the interviewer did not press him on the issue.

However, it marked the first clear acknowledgment of the degree Mossad had infiltrated Iran's program.

Iran's nuclear program previously attacked

In July 2020, a mysterious explosion tore apart Natanz's advanced centrifuge assembly, which Iran blamed on Israel. In April 2021, another blast tore apart one of its underground enrichment halls.

A few months later, Israel's outgoing Mossad chief Yossi Cohen gave an interview to Israeli television in which he all but acknowledged his spies executed the two attacks.

The show said a saboteur "made sure to supply to the Iranians the marble foundation on which the centrifuges are placed" that included "an enormous amount of explosives." □

U.K. says a deal on the Chagos Islands won't be finalized until Trump is consulted

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government confirmed Wednesday that it will not finalize a deal to hand over sovereignty of the contested Chagos Islands to Mauritius until President-elect Donald Trump's administration is consulted.

The governments of Britain and Mauritius have been negotiating in recent months to complete an agreement to settle the future of the disputed Indian Ocean archipelago, which is home to a strategically important U.K.-U.S. naval and bomber base.

But the agreement was opposed by Trump and his supporters. The president-elect's pick for secretary of state, Marco Rubio, warned last year that the deal

posed "a serious threat" to U.S. national security.

The military base, located on Diego Garcia, the largest of the chain of tropical islands off the tip of India, has supported U.S. military operations from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2008, the U.S. acknowledged it also had been used for clandestine rendition flights of terror suspects. The official spokesperson for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Wednesday it was "obviously now right" for Trump's administration to consider any deal.

"It is perfectly reasonable for the new U.S. administration to actually consider the detail and we will obviously have those discussions with them," he said. "We will only agree to a deal that is in the U.K.'s best interests

and protects our national security."

Media reports this week had suggested that officials from Britain and Mauritius were hurrying to complete the deal before Trump enters the White House.

Britain split the islands away from Mauritius, a former British colony, in 1965, three years before Mauritius gained independence, and called the Chagos archipelago the British Indian Ocean Territory.

In the 1960s and 1970s Britain evicted up to 2,000 people from the islands so the U.S. military could build the Diego Garcia base. Mauritius has long contested Britain's claim to the archipelago, and in recent years the United Nations and its top court have urged Britain to return the

Chagos to Mauritius.

Britain agreed to do so in a draft deal in October, but that has been delayed by a change of government in Mauritius and reported quarrels over how much the U.K. should pay for the lease of the Diego Garcia

airbase.

A statement issued by the Mauritian government on Wednesday said the Cabinet had been "informed of developments" and that talks in London will continue. □



Chagossians Whitney Tranquille, center, attends a protest outside the House of Parliament, in London, Oct. 7, 2024.

Associated Press



Papillon: Where Culinary Tradition Sparks with Timeless Elegance



Tucked away in the vibrant heart of the Village for over a decade and a half, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's a culinary adventure waiting to unfold. Picture this: a sanctuary where the flavors of the French Caribbean have danced harmoniously with classic French fare for the past 15 years, all set against the backdrop of a movie-inspired ambience that's as enchanting as it is welcoming.

Located in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from hotels and local markets in the area, Papillon takes the famous story of a French man experiencing the flavors and culture of the Caribbean and incorporates these aspects of the Caribbean touch into their French culinary repertoire. Step through the doors of the newly-expanded Papillon, and you're not just stepping into a dining establishment; you're stepping into a world where sophistication embraces you like an old friend. The decor, a hom-

age to the allure of the iconic film, casts a spell of intimacy and comfort, urging you to settle in and relish every moment. Here, dining isn't just about sustenance; it's about indulging in an experience meticulously crafted to ignite your senses.

At the heart of Papillon's magic lies its menu – a symphony of flavors orchestrated by culinary artisans. Imagine savoring the decadent richness of foie gras or the sublime delicacy of frog legs, each dish a love letter to tradition infused with a dash of innovation. And oh, the spectacle of the Dover sole being expertly prepared table-side! It's culinary theater at its finest, leaving you spellbound with every bite. All this served with a backdrop of the Caribbean ambience, complete with live musical performances and an inviting and colorful twist to your dinner experience!

But wait, there's more! Enter the realm of the Chef's Table, a weekly extravaganza led by the maestro himself, Executive Chef Juan Ludeña. Prepare to be whisked away on a six-course odyssey, each dish meticulously paired with wines handpicked from the largest French wine selection on the island by the esteemed Maitre d' Michael Otten. It's a soirée reserved for those who truly appreciate the artistry of gastronomy – an exquisite symphony for the palate.

In essence, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's an oasis for epicurean explorers. It's where passion meets refinement, where every dish is a masterpiece waiting to be savored, and every moment is a celebration of the finer things in life. So if you're craving the warmth of French Caribbean delights, Papillon invites you to join them on an unforgettable journey for the senses. Bon appétit!

Papillon is located in Palm Beach in front of the Hilton Resort, and open from 5pm to 10pm. Early Bird takes places from 5pm to 7pm. For reservations or more information please contact the restaurant at +297 699 5400, e-mail them at info@papillonaruba.com or visit their website at papillonaruba.com



Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.



Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and

Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is **NOT ADVISED TO SWIM IN THE WATER**, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family!



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Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)--If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the pre-historic caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the

famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area includes the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was there-

fore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the

district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas.

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can

be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm. For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing

for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was com-

pleted in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



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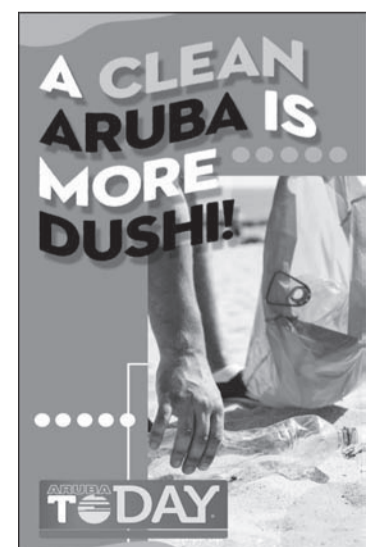
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Australian Open: Naomi Osaka is back in a Slam's 3rd round for the 1st time in 3 years



Naomi Osaka of Japan reacts after defeating Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic in their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Naomi Osaka's second-round match at the Australian Open could not possibly have started in a worse way. All of 21 minutes in, she sailed a forehand service return well long and, just like that, trailed 5-0.

Osaka strode to the sideline for the changeover, plopped herself down and draped a white towel over her head, blocking out all sights and leaving her with just her thoughts. She stayed like that throughout the break between games, even manoeuvring a water bottle under that towel to take a drink.

This was not a match against

some unknown opponent, someone Osaka knew for sure she could beat. It was against 20th-seeded Karolina Muchova, the runner-up at the 2023 French Open and a three-time semifinalist at other majors, including at Melbourne Park in 2021.

Muchova also had defeated Osaka in their two most recent matchups. None of that mattered on this afternoon, though: Osaka forgot about that disappointing start and came all the way back to win 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday.

What was her mindset? "Just be aware and try not to get so negative on yourself. I think, for me, the score in the first set was very dramatic, but there was key points that I could have maybe won a

game here or there," Osaka explained. "So I kept trying to tell myself that."

This was, in some ways, a significant moment for Osaka, who once reigned atop women's tennis, winning four Grand Slam titles two at the Australian Open, two at the U.S. Open and ascending to No. 1 in the WTA rankings. The victory allowed her to reach the third round at a major tournament for the first time since the 2022 season.

Getting to that stage was not considered a big deal at one point for her. But time off because of mental health breaks and then a pregnancy Osaka's daughter, Shai, was born in July 2023 changed things.

Since returning to action a year ago, Osaka has shown signs of getting her game back together, including a memorable and narrow loss to then-No. 1 Iga Swiatek at the French Open. This, though, followed a win against 2022 U.S. Open semifinalist Caroline Garcia in Melbourne and meant the progress is real.

"It definitely was something that is a goal of mine, especially after last year; I wasn't able to beat a seed in a Grand Slam," Osaka said. "I'm obviously very thankful that happened so early this year." □

Bill to award 1980 'Miracle On Ice' U.S. hockey team with Congressional Gold Medals is reintroduced

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill to award Congressional Gold Medals to the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" Olympic hockey team was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate on Wednesday.

The ongoing effort, which included the bill being first introduced in October, needed to be submitted for consideration again in the 119th Congress.

Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Minn., reintroduced the Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act in the House along with co-sponsors Reps. Lisa McClain, R-Mich., Mike Quigley, D-Ill., and Bill Keating, D-Mass. Sens. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., and Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.,



In this Feb. 22, 1980, file photo, the U.S. hockey team pounces on goalie Jim Craig after a 4-3 victory against the Soviets in the 1980 Olympics, as a flag waves from the Lake Placid, N.Y. crowd.

Associated Press

reintroduced it in the Senate. USA Hockey executive director Pat Kelleher said he encourages fans to contact their congressional representatives to express their support for the bill's passage. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman

said the league enthusiastically supports the legislation. February marks the 45th anniversary of the Americans beating the heavily favored Soviet Union on the way to the gold medal on home ice in Lake Placid, New York. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Streaming, poetically
6 Deli fixture

11 River of France

12 Carried

13 Tony-winning musical of 1979

15 Outdated

16 Scot's cap

17 Spring month

18 Opera's Callas

20 Fancy neckwear

23 Tony-winning musical of 1980

27 Scam

28 Bullfight cries

29 Tony-winning musical of 1977

31 Pottery ovens

32 Concluded

34 Form 1040 org.

37 Energy

38 Peaks: Abbr.

41 Tony-winning musical of 2009

44 Figure of speech

45 Spooky

46 Grassy plant

47 Kingdom

DOWN

1 Too

2 Poultry

3 Told tales

4 Mine rock

5 Attacked

6 Thwart

7 Barracks bed

8 Molecule component

9 Pollux's mother

10 Vortex

14 Corn unit

18 Pluck

19 Stay away from

20 "That's it!"

21 Junior, to senior

22 Paint buy

24 Suffering

25 Decimal base

26 Braying beast

30 Digestion aid

31 Astronomer Johannes

33 Game cube

34 Wading bird

35 Take the bus

36 Glided

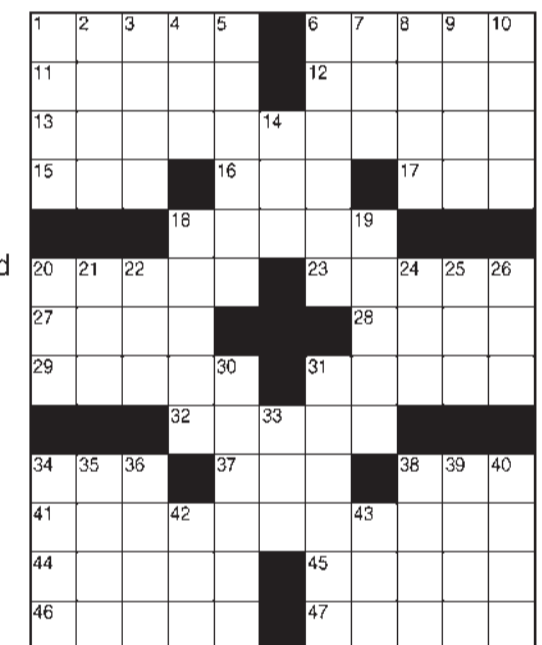
38 Sorvino of "Mimic"

39 Drudgery

40 Goblet part

42 Fireplace item

43 Director Ang



1-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

TPI FTUY ACUDB DOUYDOBY

DU OTY WTI UPIJDJCK APY WTI

WCFDKQ. — ECPK ESCIUCKK
Cryptoquote: I BLINK JANUARY'S
LASHES AND GUSH DOWN DECEMBER'S
CHEEKS. — SANOBER KHAN

Former Cowboys Deion Sanders and Jason Witten are among names floated as club's next coach

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Pro Football Writer

Deion Sanders and Jason Witten are two of Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' former and favorite players, and both have been floated as potential replacements for coach Mike McCarthy.

Jones and McCarthy agreed Monday to part ways after five seasons together. McCarthy was on an expiring contract and finished 7-10, ending a three-year run of playoff trips with 12-5 records. Dallas was 1-3 in those three postseasons. There was no update from the club on the coaching search Tuesday, a day after Jones said one would begin following the decision to move on from McCarthy.



Colorado head coach Deion Sanders watches the replay in the first half during an NCAA college football game against Arizona, Oct. 19, 2024, in Tucson, Ariz.

Associated Press

Jones made a splashy free agent signing with Sanders in 1995 a few months after the Cowboys lost to Sanders and the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC championship game. The 49ers went on to win the Super Bowl. The Cowboys won their third Super Bowl in a four-year span in that first season with Sanders, whose five seasons in Dallas matched his longest tenure with any team. Atlanta, which drafted Sanders fifth overall in 1989, also had the Pro Football Hall of Fame cornerback for five years.

Sanders just finished his second season as coach at Colorado, and he and Jones talked about the Dallas opening Monday.

Witten was the best tight end in franchise history and is the club leader in games, starts, consecutive starts, catches and yards receiving.

The 11-time Pro Bowler was interested in joining the coaching staff when McCarthy replaced Jason Garrett in 2020, but instead became the head coach at a private school in the Dallas area. Witten's team just won a state championship.

Witten could fit the mold of Detroit coach Dan Campbell, another former Dallas tight end who led the Lions to the top seed in the NFC playoffs a season after they lost to the Niners in the NFC title game. The Lions host Washington on Saturday night in a divisional game. A Witten move would be highly unusual since his only coaching experience has been in high school. Campbell had plenty of NFL coaching experience when the Lions hired him in 2021. Philadelphia offensive coordinator Kellen Moore has strong ties to Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott, who is going into the first year of a \$240 million, four-year extension.

It's the first contract with a \$60 million average annual value in NFL history.

Moore was Prescott's backup in his final season as a player in 2017, and immediately became his quarterbacks coach in 2018. □



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